

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03828 191834Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 SSC-01 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00
/075 W

-----118146 192003Z /63

R 191735Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6299
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3828

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, JM
SUBJECT: VIVIAN BLAKE LEAVES GOVERNMENT

1. ON JULY 15, PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE MINISTER VIVIAN O. BLAKE, Q.C. BLAKE HAD ASKED THAT HE BE RELIEVED OF HIS MINISTERIAL DUTIES BECAUSE OF POOR HEALTH. THE FORMER MINISTER WILL RETAIN HIS SEAT IN PARLIAMENT. THERE IS NO REASON TO DOUBT THE REASON GIVEN FOR BLAKE'S DECISION TO RESIGN FROM THE GOVERNMENT; HIS HEALTH IS BAD AND HAS GROWN WORSE IN RECENT MONTHS.

2. BLAKE'S DEPARTURE WILL ERODE THE STRENGTH OF THE MODERATE" FACTION OF THE RULING PEOPLES NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) SINCE HE HAS BEEN ONE OF ITS MORE ARTICULATE AND INTELLIGENT MEMBERS. HOWEVER, BLAKE'S EFFECTIVENESS HAS BEEN LESS THAN HIS GIFTS MIGHT HAVE SUGGESTED, MOREOVER, HE HAS LITTLE TASTE FOR THE ROUGH- AND- TUMBLE POLITICS WHICH CHARACTERIZE
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PAGE 02 KINGST 03828 191834Z

JAMAICAN POLITICS IN GENERAL AND PNP POLKTICS IN PARTICULAR.

3. IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT AS A BACKBENCHER BLAKE WILL PLAY A MORE PROMINENTLY CRITICAL ROLE THAN HE HAS AS A MINISTER. IN A SPEECH WHICH BLAKE MADE ON JULY 9 IN OCHO RIOS, HE REPORTEDLY TOLD

SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATES THAT "CITIZENS MUST BE
FEARLESS IN CRITICIZING AND EXAMINING EVERY NEW
PHILOSOPHY AND IDEA." HE SAID, " WHAT IS FREEDOM
UNLESS IT ALLOWS EVERY MAN TO HAVE A DIFFERENT POINT
OF VIEW AND EXAMINE IT IN HIS OWN WAY?"

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SENATOR DANNY WILLIAMS, A MODERATE
AND A TECHNOCRAT, IS LIKELY TO REPLACE BLAKE AS MINISTER.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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